

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /025 W

-----011134Z 020578 /14

R 011003Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0806

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0426

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, BEXP, EG

SUBJECT: NEW ACTIVITIES IN SHIPPING AGENCY FIELD

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0413 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT AHMED EFFAT, CHAIRMAN OF US/EGYPT BUSINESS COUNCIL, HAD INFORMED ME THAT HE WAS "SHADOW PARTNER" IN A NEWLY ESTABLISHED AGENCY, A "CONSULTANCY" IN MARITIME AND SHIPPING AFFAIRS. HIS WIFE IS THE PARTNER OF RECORD.

2. DURING A MEETING 1 JUNE, TO DISCUSS OTHER MATTERS, ADMIRAL MAHMOUD EL SAMAK, FIRST UNDERSECRETARY OF MARITIME TRANSPORT MINISTRY, SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AHMED EFFAT HAD DISCUSSED WITH ME NEW AGENCY HE AND EFFAT WERE ESTABLISHING. AFTER I REPLIED EFFAT HAD SPOKEN ONLY OF HIS OWN ROLE AND HIS WIFE'S, SAMAK SAID THAT HIS WIFE WAS MRS. EFFAT'S PARTNER AND THAT FOR NOW THE TWO MEN WOULD NOT BE "OUT FRONT".

3. HE DID SAY THAT IF THE AGENCY WENT WELL, THEY WOULD LEAVE GOVERNMENT TO DEVOTE FULL TIME TO THAT WORK. HE INDICATED THAT THEY HOPED TO FUNCTION AS REGULAR SHIPPING AGENTS, NOTING THAT NATIONALIZED AGENCIES, WHICH ALL SHIPPERS MUST USE, ARE HOPELESS AND THERE IS GREAT NEED FOR PRIVATE AGENCIES.

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4. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM BLATANT CONFLICT OF INTEREST ON SAMAK'S PART (THE NATIONALIZED AGENCIES ARE THE BULK OF THE MINISTRY IN TERMS OF MANPOWER AND WORKLOAD), SAMAK HAS BEEN PUBLICLY QUOTED AS UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO RETURN OF AGENCY WORK TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THIS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE MARITIME TRANSPORT MINISTRY'S OPERATIONS: MAKE THINGS SO DIFFICULT WORKING THROUGH THEM THAT

"CONSULTANTS" MUST BE HIRED TO GET THE JOB DONE (THE FORMER
MINISTER'S BROTHER OPERATED SUCH AN AGENCY.
CHASE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALEXAN00426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770194-1014
Format: TEL
From: ALEXANDRIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197706105/aaaadnhz.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1f0a9e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ALEXANDRIA 413
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2007776
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW ACTIVITIES IN SHIPPING AGENCY FIELD
TAGS: EWWT, BEXP, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1f0a9e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009